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AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO TRANSFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR THE QUARTERMASTER EXPERIMENTAL FUEL STATION, PIKE COUNTY, MO.

AUGUST 20 (legislative day, AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CAIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4260]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4260) to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the Department of the Interior the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station, Pike County, Mo., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer the custody of the Missouri Ordnance Works (now the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station) to the Bureau of Mines, in order that such agency may continue to conduct experiments and research at the plant in the production of synthetic liquid fuels.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The Missouri Ordnance Works (now the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station) located in Pike County, Mo., is currently surplus to the needs of the Department of the Army and has been in the custody of the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Mines) pursuant to a letter of agreement dated December 23, 1947.

This transfer of custody was made so as to facilitate experiment and research in the production of synthetic liquid fuels being carried out pursuant to the provisions of the Synthetic Liquefied Fuels Act of April 5, 1944.

Since assuming custody of this facility, the Department of the Interior has expended $15 million thereon, and proposes further plant development. Under these circumstances, sound procedure requires that the title to the installation be in the custody of the using agency.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT

Both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense concur in this transfer as is indicated by the following letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services in connection with a companion bill, S. 1653.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington 25, D. C., May 18, 1951.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is enclosed a proposed bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the Department of the Interior the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station, Pike County, Mo.

I respectfully request that the proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and I recommend that it be enacted.

By a letter of agreement, signed by the Quartermaster General and accepted the 23d day of December 1947, by the Director of the Bureau of Mines, the custody of the Missouri Ordnance works (now the Quartermaster Experimental Fuel Station) was transferred to the Bureau of Mines, pursuant to authority in Public Law 290, Seventy-eighth Congress (58 Stat. 190, 30 U. S. C. 321–325), the Synthetic Liquid Fuels Act, to conduct experiments and research at the plant in the production of synthetic liquid fuels.

Since March 15, 1947, the Department of the Interior, at its own expense, has maintained and operated the Missouri Ordnance works, constructing two plants to demonstrate conversion of coal to synthetic liquid fuels. Both plants are tied in integrally with the facilities of the Quartermaster Experimental Fuels Station and it would not be possible to operate either of them without using these facilities.

In a letter of April 29, 1949, from the Director of the Bureau of Mines to the Quartermaster General, it was suggested that the Army might desire to transfer full jurisdiction and control of the Quartermaster Experimental Fuels Station, without exchange of funds, to the Department of the Interior to further expand, make further changes, and more satisfactorily carry out its synthetic liquid fuels program, which in the light of the present world situation becomes more vital every day.

In a letter of July 17, 1950, the Secretary of the Army informed the Director of the Bureau of Mines that the Army had no objection to the transfer of the Quartermaster Experimental Fuels Station without reimbursement to the Department of the Interior.

In brief, both Departments are agreeable to the transfer of the property. It will not involve the expenditure of any funds and it will be of great benefit to the Department of the Interior and the Nation as a whole in the development of synthetic liquid fuels.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised me that there would be no objection to the presentation of this proposed legislation for the consideration of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MASTIN G. WHITE,
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

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